

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data processing method for processing data  
to be supplied to an ink jet printing apparatus,  
5 wherein the ink jet printing apparatus can perform a  
marginless printing that forms an image on a print  
medium up to the edges of the print medium by,  
according to print data, ejecting ink onto an area  
inside the edges of the print medium and onto an  
10 overrunning area outside the edges, the data  
processing method comprising:

a waste ink volume obtaining step to obtain a  
value equivalent to a waste ink volume associated with  
the marginless printing; and  
15 a data sending step to send to the ink jet  
printing apparatus data representing the value  
equivalent to a waste ink volume obtained by the waste  
ink volume obtaining step.

20 2. A data processing method according to claim 1,  
wherein the waste ink volume obtaining step obtains  
the value equivalent to a waste ink volume associated  
with the marginless printing for every page of the  
print medium or for every predetermined print area,  
25 and

the data sending step sends successively to the  
ink jet printing apparatus data representing the value

equivalent to a waste ink volume determined by the waste ink volume determining step for every page of the print medium or for every predetermined print area.

5           3. A data processing method according to claim 1, wherein the waste ink volume obtaining step obtains the value equivalent to a waste ink volume associated with the marginless printing for every predetermined print area and accumulates the values equivalent to  
10 waste ink volumes for individual predetermined print areas, and

the data sending step sends to the ink jet printing apparatus the accumulated value equivalent to waste ink volumes obtained by the waste ink volume  
15 obtaining step.

4. A data processing method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the waste ink volume obtaining step counts the number of waste ink dots ejected onto the  
20 overrunning area outside the edges of the print medium to obtain the value equivalent to a waste ink volume associated with the marginless printing.

5. A data processing method according to claim 1,  
25 wherein the waste ink volume obtaining step obtains the value corresponding to a size of the printing medium.

6. A data processing apparatus for supplying data to an ink jet printing apparatus, wherein the ink jet printing apparatus can perform a marginless printing that forms an image on a print medium up to the edges of the print medium by, according to print data, ejecting ink onto an area inside the edges of the print medium and onto an overrunning area outside the edges, the data processing apparatus comprising:

10       a waste ink volume obtaining means to obtain a value equivalent to a waste ink volume associated with the marginless printing; and

          a data sending means to send to the ink jet printing apparatus data representing the value

15       equivalent to a waste ink volume obtained by the waste ink volume obtaining means.

7. A data processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the waste ink volume obtaining means

20       counts the number of waste ink dots ejected onto the overrunning area outside the edges of the print medium to obtain the value equivalent to a waste ink volume associated with the marginless printing.

25       8. A program for controlling an ink jet printing apparatus, wherein the ink jet printing apparatus can perform a marginless printing that forms an image on a

print medium up to the edges of the print medium by,  
according to print data, ejecting ink over a range  
from an area inside the edges of the print medium to  
an overrunning area outside the edges, the program  
5 causing a computer to execute

a waste ink volume obtaining step to determine a  
value equivalent to a waste ink volume associated with  
the marginless printing; and

a data sending step to send to the ink jet  
10 printing apparatus data representing the value  
equivalent to a waste ink volume obtained by the waste  
ink volume obtaining step.

9. An ink jet printing system having an ink jet  
15 printing apparatus and a host for supplying print data  
to the ink jet printing apparatus, wherein the ink jet  
printing apparatus can perform a marginless printing  
that forms an image on a print medium up to the edges  
of the print medium by, according to print data,  
20 ejecting ink over a range from an area inside the  
edges of the print medium to an overrunning area  
outside the edges,

the host comprising:

a waste ink volume obtaining means for obtaining  
25 a value equivalent to a waste ink volume associated  
with the marginless printing; and

a data sending means for sending to the ink jet

printing apparatus data representing the value  
equivalent to a waste ink volume obtained by the waste  
ink volume obtaining means;

the ink jet printing apparatus comprising:

5        an ink receiving member for receiving waste ink  
ejected onto the overrunning area outside the edges of  
the print medium during the marginless printing; and

an accumulated value memory means for  
cumulatively adding up data representing the values  
10        equivalent to waste ink volumes sent from the host and  
storing an accumulated value equivalent to waste ink  
volumes ejected onto the ink receiving member during  
the marginless printing.

15        10. An ink jet printing system according to  
claim 9,

wherein the ink jet printing apparatus further  
comprises:

a decision means for checking whether the  
20        accumulated value stored in the accumulated value  
memory means has exceeded a predetermined value; and

a sending means for sending warning data to the  
host when the accumulated value exceeds the  
predetermined value;

25        wherein the host further comprises:

an error display means for, according to the  
warning data sent from the ink jet printing apparatus,

displaying on a screen an indication that the ink jet printing apparatus is in an error state.

11. An ink jet printing system according to  
5 claim 10, wherein, in the error state in which the accumulated value exceeds the predetermined value, at least one of the ink jet printing apparatus and the host performs at least one of a displaying of the error and a disabling of the operation of the ink jet  
10 printing apparatus.